Population below poverty line

†1641. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total population living below the poverty line in India; and

(b) the reasons for increase in the number of poor after liberalization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) As per the latest available estimate 320.4 million people lived below the poverty line in India in 1993-94.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at National and State level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. The next large survey on consumer expenditure covers the period July, 1999 to June, 2000 and the field work of the survey is under progress. As such, the estimate of number of poor in the country is available for only one year, *i.e.*, 1993-94 after the liberalization process began in 1990-91. Hence, it is not possible to conclude that the number of poor increased after liberalization.

Delay in Carrying out Construction Work

†1642. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to delay in carrying out construction work, the present public sector projects which are under construction are becoming costlier;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the estimated original construction cost of such projects was Rupees 1,09,995 crores which has risen to Rupees 1,55,656 crores;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the delay in construction of projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) As on 30th September, 1999, the original cost of 446 projects on the monitor of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation costing Rs. 1,09,995 crores is now anticipated to cost Rs. 1,55,656 crores.

(c) The reasons for delay vary from project to project. The reasons include: administrative & procedural delays; delay in land acquisition, delay in award of work contracts, failure of civil contractors, delay in supply of equipment, faulty implementation procedures and unresponsive monitoring system.

(d) The steps taken by Government to check the delay in construction of projects include: (i) Monthly as well as Quarterly monitoring by the Government. This enables the monitoring agencies to identify constraints and help the management in taking remedial measures; (ii) In-depth critical reviews of the progress by the project authorities and Administrative Ministries, and coordination with the respective State Governments, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies; (iii) Reviewing status of fabrication of equipment with suppliers as well as turnkey contractors; (iv) Inter-Ministerial coordination and holding facilitation meetings among concerned parties; (v) Setting up of Empowered Committee for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving of land acquisition and other problems; and (vi) Making funds avaiiable to complete the projects on schedule.

Formulation of job oriented schemes in hilly areas of NER

1643. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have issued instructions and directions to various Departments of Government for formulation/ preparation job oriented schemes/programmes in the hilly areas of the country particularly in the hilly areas of NER including North Cachar district;